

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a postal item, whereby order data for a postal item that is to be printed and/or sent is generated in an order component, the method comprising the following steps:

~~receiving electronic order data and storing the order data in a transaction computer controlling an automatic auction;~~

~~breaking down the electronic order data into address information of a recipient and a goods identification code, wherein the recipient is a customer of an automated auction who placed a highest bid;~~

~~preparing the address information in a form that can be linked to the goods;~~

~~linking the goods to the address information, and~~

~~transmitting the goods identification code to a warehouse management control unit, the warehouse management control unit transmitting the order data to a material flow control computer and the material flow computer controlling material flow so that the goods and/or additional goods are placed into picking containers and/or directly into a transport container provided for the shipment as a postal item; and~~

~~delivering the goods linked to the address information as a postal item, the postal item having a generated postal indicium taking into account the address information of the recipient, where franking information and address information are combined and incorporated into the postal indicium to increase franking security.~~

2. (Canceled).

3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 15, comprising the transaction computer performing an automatic comparison between the stock of goods and one or more pending orders.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Canceled).

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 17, wherein the transaction computer transmits the address information of the customer who placed the highest bid in the auction procedure to a computer of a seller who is offering the goods for sale at auction.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, comprising generating a postage indicium for the postal item in an automated process.

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, comprising controlling the generation of the postage indicium by ~~[[the]]~~ a warehouse management control unit.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 8, comprising controlling the generation of the postage indicium by a computer of the recipient.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 8, comprising notifying the recipient of the execution of the franking.

12. (Currently Amended) A device for generating a postal item, comprising, in combination:

~~a transaction computer for controlling an automatic auction procedure and for receiving and storing order data of address information of a recipient and a goods identification code that identifies the goods to be transmitted to a warehouse management control unit, the warehouse management control unit transmitting the order data to a material flow computer, the material flow computer controlling material flow to place the goods into picking containers and/or directly into a transport container provided for the shipment as a postal item;~~

a means for linking the goods to the address information, and

a postal service provider for delivering the goods linked to the address information as a postal item, the postal item having a generated postal indicium taking into account the address information of the recipient, where franking information and address information are combined and incorporated into the postal indicium to increase franking security.

13. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 12, wherein the means to link the goods to the address information is a printer.

14. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 12, wherein the means to link the goods to the address information is a transmitter that is designed in such a way that it can transmit the address information to a transponder that can be affixed to the goods.

15. (New) The method according to claim 1, comprising storing the electronic order data in a transaction computer.

16. (New) The method according to claim 15, comprising a warehouse management control unit transmitting the electronic order data to a material flow control computer and the material flow control computer controlling material flow in such a way that the goods and/or additional goods are placed into picking containers and/or directly into a transport container provided for the shipment as a postal item.

17. (New) The method according to claim 15, comprising the transaction computer controlling an automatic auction procedure.

18. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the address information and franking information are combined into a machine-readable matrix code.

19. (New) The method according to claim 18, wherein the machine-readable matrix code is cryptographically secured.